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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

NOTES.

PROFESSOR PATTEN'S BOOK on "The Development of English Thought," * just from the press of the Macmillan Company, is likely to provoke discussion in several different fields. Its title does not accurately indicate the contents, for the author is more concerned with the development of English character and civilization than he is with the intellectual processes and conclusions of English philosophers and thinkers. English thought interests him only so far as it has had an influence upon the national character. His real subject therefore is the vital element in English thought, that part of which is in harmony with the environment of its period and is therefore applicable to the solution of pressing problems. The chapter headings give a clue to the author's method. They are: I. The Theory; II. Antecedents of English Civilization; III. The Calvinists; IV. The Moralists; V. The Economists; VI. Concluding Remarks. Fortunately for those who have no taste for theory, the first chapter is not essential to an understanding of the main proposition which the author seeks to establish. The book is provided with an index, and an excellent analytical table of contents. It will be reviewed at length in a later issue of the ANNALS.

PROFESSOR GUSTAV SCHMOLLER, of the University of Berlin, has published in "*Umriss und Untersuchungen zur Verfassungs-, Verwaltungs- und Wirthschaftsgeschichte* †" a few of his contributions to the internal history of Prussia during the last three centuries, but more especially in the formative period of the eighteenth century. The essays have appeared from time to time, in the last twenty years, in German historical or economic reviews, and in their present form give a fairly good survey of Prussian industrial development during the period mentioned. A complete history, to which these studies should be merely preliminary, was originally Professor Schmoller's ambition; but such a work exceeds the powers of a single investigator, and Professor Schmoller contents himself with the publication of these fragments and with the hope of publishing at a later time a *Grundriss* or outline of the political and industrial history of Prussia. The *Leitmotiv* of the present collection of essays

* Pp. 409. New York and London: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

† Pp. x, 686. Price, 13 m. Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, 1898.

is found in the first study—the mercantile system—which has been translated into English and published in Ashley's series of Economic Classics, and which is here supplemented and illustrated by the second essay, the "Commercial War between Brandenburg and Pomerania in 1562." The three following essays treat of the essential elements of the state's activity—finances, army and civil service. The first mentioned of these, the longest essay in the seven hundred page volume, sketches the Prussian financial policy from the beginning to the establishment of the present German Empire. Articles VI to VIII discuss the handicraft system, its transition to the cottage or domestic industry, and the rise of the Prussian *Gross-industrie* in the eighteenth century. These studies of industry are completed with an essay on agrarian policy ("*Die preussische Einwanderung und ländliche Kolonisation*," first published in the *Schriften des Vereins für Socialpolitik*) and one on commercial policy as concerned with the grain trade.*

MR. BENJAMIN KIDD, the well-known author of "Social Evolution," has recently published in book form a series of three articles, which he contributed to the *London Times*, dealing with the subject of "The Control of the Tropics,"† To these articles, which make up sixty pages of large print, Mr. Kidd has added as an appendix a reprint of the tenth chapter of his "Social Evolution," discussing the relations of our civilization to the tropics. As a piece of bookmaking, this is something of an imposition upon the generosity of the public which accorded Mr. Kidd's popular book so hearty a reception. Whether the author or the publisher is to blame for this is, of course, an open question.

The thought which Mr. Kidd contributes in the discussion of a problem of vital interest to English and American readers is an important one and can be summed up briefly as follows: In the natural development of trade relations, Great Britain's trade with the tropics in 1896 amounted to 138,000,000 pounds, and with the English-speaking world, not including the British tropics, 233,000,000 pounds, making a total in the tropics and English-speaking world of 371,000,000 pounds, while her trade with all the rest of the world amounted to only 367,000,000 pounds. The trade of the United States in 1895 with the tropics was \$346,000,000, and with the English speaking world, not including the British tropics, \$657,000,000, making a total in the tropics and English-speaking world of \$1,003,000,000, while American

* Communicated by Dr. A. F. Weber.

† *The Control of the Tropics*. By BENJAMIN KIDD. Pp. vi, 101. Price, 75 cents. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1898.

trade with the rest of the world amounted to only \$535,000,000. Adding these together, we have the trade of the United States and Great Britain with the tropics amounting to 208,000,000 pounds; while their combined trade with the remainder of the world outside of English-speaking lands amounts to 473,000,000 pounds. The combined trade with the tropics, therefore, amounts to 44 per cent of the total trade with the rest of the world. The conclusion is that in a purely economic sense the tropics are a necessary supplement to the economic development of England and America. In the next place the question of order and industrial efficiency on the part of the population of the tropics is discussed with reference to these sections, with the conclusion that these regions cannot be permanently colonized by Englishmen or Americans. In the third article an argument is advanced to show that in order to secure social order and industrial efficiency on the part of the natives there must be intelligent and benevolent political control of these regions through the agency of English and American civilization.

Mr. Kidd has here suggested a line of argument altogether too much neglected in the present discussion concerning the relation of the English-speaking peoples to one another and to tropical regions, but it can hardly be maintained that Mr. Kidd has done more than suggest a thought that must be worked out with great care and upon the basis of a much wider range of facts than Mr. Kidd has collected in the present volume.

THE SECOND VOLUME* of Professor Wyckoff's realistic account of his experiences as a laborer shifts the scene to the West. The author arrived in Chicago penniless, lived on the streets, slept in the police stations, obtained occasional odd jobs and finally secured a position first as a hand-truckman in a factory and later as a road builder on the World's Fair grounds. He then worked his way to the West, passing through the great wheat fields and finally reached the Pacific Coast. Mr. Wyckoff was well equipped for the work that he attempted. His undertaking, which resembled that of Herr Goehre in Saxony ("*Drei Monate als Fabrik-Arbeiter*") required great energy and splendid courage, but the results attained were worthy of the effort. The narrative is written in a lively and often brilliant style, the characters presented are clear cut and definite, and the incidents are described in a dramatic manner without being distorted or exaggerated. The author shows himself capable of the nicest perception and

* *The Workers: An Experiment in Reality.—The West.* By WALTER A. WYCKOFF. Pp. ix, 378. Price, \$1.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1898.

the keenest psychological analysis. The book, however, is merely a series of personal experiences and impressions, and will appeal less to the economist than to the ordinary reader. Moreover the moral and religious points of view are emphasized to the almost total exclusion of the economic attitude, and the infrequent attempts at an analysis of economic conditions are extremely inconclusive and unsatisfactory. It is to be presumed, however, that Professor Wyckoff will shortly supplement these excellent sketches by a more scientific treatment of the results of his interesting and valuable experiment.*

MR. ROBERT T. HILL'S book on "Cuba and Porto Rico" is an excellent work.† It discusses the geology, topography, climate, flora, products, industries, cities, people, political conditions, and probable future of Cuba, Porto Rico and the other more important islands of the West Indies. Mr. Hill is connected with the United States Geological Survey, and is a well-known geologist. He has given many years to the study of the West Indies, and his knowledge of those islands is probably greater than that of any other person, with the possible exception of Professor Alexander Agassiz. One-third of the volume is devoted to Cuba, one-seventh to Porto Rico and the remainder to the other islands. The author has chosen his material well and presented it in a concise style, and, what is quite as commendable, has possessed the art of keeping himself entirely in the background. The excellent illustrations and presswork give the substantial volume an artistic appearance and add to its intrinsic merits.

MR. SHEARMAN'S "NATURAL TAXATION"‡ divides itself naturally into two nearly equal parts, which may be appropriately designated "destructive" and "constructive." The first chapter is headed "Crooked Taxation," used as an equivalent for "indirect taxation," which the author maintains is crooked in operation, form, motives, effects, and in its influence upon the well-being of society.

Under "Direct Taxation," the author points out some of the evils of the income tax, the succession tax and the property tax. He concludes that "every form of indirect taxation is unjust to the poor and that every form of direct taxation is unjust to the honest."

* Contributed by Dr. Walter E. Weyl, Philadelphia.

† *Cuba and Porto Rico, with the Other Islands of the West Indies*. By ROBERT T. HILL. Pp. xxviii, 429. Price \$3.00. New York: The Century Company, 1898.

‡ *Natural Taxation*. By THOMAS G. SHEARMAN. New and enlarged edition. Pp. 252. New York: Doubleday & McClure Company, 1898.

Because of these weaknesses, whether due to inefficient administration or to some inherent quality, the author decides that the character of all taxes collected in all civilized countries is bad and therefore such taxes are unnatural, unscientific and arbitrarily invented by men, regardless of all natural laws. In a chapter headed "Testimony from Experiences," are given concrete examples of evils already pointed out.

The discussion in the second half of the book is based on the assumption that the advantages derived from government and society are measured by the unearned increment from land; that this ground rent is the market value of the benefits of government; that ground rent being the product of our corporate social life, the revenue necessary to supply all of our collective needs ought to be drawn from such rent. He maintains that ground rent is a fund which rightfully belongs to the government: Consequently in taking it the government is merely using its own legitimate income. This is therefore a perfectly *natural* tax.

After enumerating many advantages, social, ethical, etc., the author considers some objections which have been made to such a single tax.

"THE COMMERCE CLAUSE OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION"* by Messrs. Prentice and Egan is a concise and clear account of the powers which congress possesses over interstate commerce. The more important decisions interpreting the commerce clause of the constitution are reviewed and briefly discussed. The volume will doubtless perform a useful service as a text-book and guide, but those who purpose making a thorough study of the subject treated in this book will still need to go to the volumes by Redfield, Elliott and the other standard authorities.

THE APPEARANCE OF two essays † on local administration, in the Columbia University series at this time is illustrative of the new trend of investigation in public law. Interest in constitutional forms and theories is on the wane, while attention is being turned more and more toward the practical content of these forms. The

* *The Commerce Clause of the Federal Constitution.* By E. PARMALEE PRENTICE and JOHN G. EGAN. Pp. lxxv, 386. Chicago: Callaghan & Co., 1898.

† *Public Administration in Massachusetts.* By ROBERT H. WHITTEN, Ph. D. Pp. x, 167. *The Centralisation of Administration in New York State.* By JOHN A. FAIRLIE, Ph. D. Pp. x, 207. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. VIII, No. 4, and Vol. IX, No. 3, respectively. Price, \$1.00 each. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1898.

authors of the essays mentioned find that in both Massachusetts and New York the old system of administrative decentralization is rapidly declining, while a system of central control is taking its place. The administration of schools, roads, health and poor laws, etc., is no longer vested exclusively in the county, town and district subject only to the state laws, but it is now subordinated to a central or state authority which exercises a varying degree of control in different states. The balance of power between state and locality begins to lean toward the central authorities. In addition to this the various state governments are taking up new administrative functions directly without entrusting them to the local organization at all, *e. g.*, factory and mine inspection, control over corporations engaged in certain enterprises, as banking, insurance, railroads and canals. The monographs of Dr. Whitten and Dr. Fairlie show that some of our state systems of administration are in this respect undergoing a most important change, that the new methods of organization are likely to be introduced in other states, and that on the whole the change is decidedly for the better. A similar development which has already taken place in England was described in one of the previous numbers of the "Studies" and in the ANNALS. In the essays before us the attempt has been made to indicate the general causes of administrative centralization; among the more important of these may be mentioned improvements in the means of transportation, increased communication between different parts of the state, the growth of manufacturing, and a greater density of population. Another interesting feature of our modern administrative development is seen in the increasing importance and independence of our cities. The authors have given considerable attention to this point and have clearly shown the connection between central administrative control and municipal home rule.

AN INTERESTING COUNTERPART to the two studies above described is the booklet entitled "*Les Pays de France*." * The author examines successively the various units of administration now existing in France—the department, the *arrondissement*, the canton, the commune, and concludes that a re-organization is necessary, since the divisions are for the most part purely arbitrary and lend themselves too readily to the present system of extreme centralization. The remedy proposed is an essential decentralization, to be accomplished by the organization of new local units. These units should be based upon common ties of tradition, custom or economic interest.

* By P. FONCIN. Questions du Temps présent. Pp. 80. Price, 1 fr. Paris: A. Colin, 1898.

The old *pays*, for example, which correspond very nearly to the present *arrondissements*, afford an excellent basis for a local organization which might be subdivided into communes. These *pays* could easily be grouped together to form autonomous *régions* or districts, based on common commercial and industrial interests or on the peculiar topography of the country. The author describes thirty such districts. He contends that such a semi-federal system would restore to local government the hold upon popular attention which it once possessed and would secure a more natural foundation for the entire administrative system of the country.

IN A VOLUME OF nearly four hundred pages Judge Elliott, a member of the District Court of Minnesota, has given us an admirable summary of the law of public corporations. Since the last edition of Judge Dillon's book on the same subject in 1890 we have had no carefully arranged treatment of this subject. In fact there has been no text-book of a size convenient for the use of students. For this reason, if for no other, the publication of Judge Elliott's book will be welcomed by teachers as well as students. The author has so skillfully arranged the material that the work is equally valuable as a text-book of the public law and as a manual of one branch of the private law. Book I., on the "Creation and Control of Public Corporations," shows clearly how rules of the private law have been applied to public relations, and although the author draws few conclusions as to the merits or defects of the system, the student can readily ascertain where the advantages and disadvantages lie. Probably the most valuable portion of the work is to be found in Book II., dealing with the "Powers of Public Corporations." We have seen but few legal text-books in which the principles of the law are as carefully formulated and as succinctly stated. Although Judge Dillon's work must still remain the standard treatise on the law of municipal corporations, it is quite certain that Judge Elliott's book will receive a very wide acceptance in our law schools and that it will be of no mean value to the members of the profession.

"EDUCATIONAL REFORM"† is the title President Eliot has chosen for his second volume of essays and addresses,‡ which

* *The Principles of the Law of Public Corporations.* By CHARLES B. ELLIOTT, Ph. D., LL. D. Pp. 364. Price, \$6.00. Chicago: Callaghan & Co., 1898.

† Pp. 418. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Century Company, 1898.

‡ For notice of the first volume, see *ANNALS*, Vol. xi, pp. 391-92.

opens with his "Inaugural Address as President of Harvard College," delivered in 1869, and closes with a paper on "The Function of Education in Democratic Society," read in Brooklyn in 1897. There are in all eighteen essays and addresses in the volume, treating of all grades of education from that of the grammar to that of the professional school. Perhaps the most striking fact about these papers is that though written for widely different occasions and embracing a period of nearly thirty years, they all present the same educational program. The chief points in this program are that education must be rendered more individual and that it must adapt itself to the ever changing requirements of actual life. The introduction of the elective system at Harvard was the first step in the direction of realizing these reforms. Other changes, such as greater attention to modern languages, the substitution of lecture and laboratory for text-book methods of instruction and the differentiation of the college from the university have followed in due course. Each one of these changes is suggested and defended in the volume under review. That most of them are now taken for granted in the educational world is eloquent testimony to the success that has crowned President Eliot's efforts as an educational reformer. No better summary of what has been done toward improving educational methods or of what still needs to be accomplished could be given than is contained in these "Essays and Addresses."

THE LATEST ADDITION to our Frankliniana appears as the opening number in a series of biographical sketches of great Americans.* Most of our biographical descriptions of Franklin have referred especially to one or another of the many sides which his character bore, but the present author has attempted to give a "composite picture." The man of family, the printer, the editor, the politician, the diplomat, the inventor, the philosopher, are all touched upon in a somewhat impressionist way. Some interesting reproductions of old documents and pictures are given. Incidentally the background of events in local and national history in which Franklin took part is developed. It is to be remarked that the history of self-made Americans is receiving more attention than ever before.

* *Benjamin Franklin*. By EDWARD ROBINS. American Men of Energy Series. Pp. ix, 354. Price, \$1.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898